

together for very long," he said. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Earlier this year, Montenegro, which is less than a million people, became a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent. We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO THE RIVERDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department in the borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent. On February 25, 2007, the good citizens of Riverdale will celebrate the Fire Department's 100th anniversary.

The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department officially began as the Pompton Volunteer Fire Department on February 25, 1907. Twenty-three men from the village of Pompton, New Jersey, and vicinity met at Post's Mercantile Shop on the Hamburg-Paterson Turnpike on January 2, 1907, to begin organizing a local fire department. By the end of February, officers had been elected and the name Pompton Fire Department had been selected.

The Apparatus Committee first purchased three dozen pails and painted them red. Later in 1907, the department approved "no more than \$10" to build a two-wheeled truck to carry ladders. Located on the Hamburg-Paterson Turnpike, the first firehouse was on land now occupied by the Hale-DuBow Agency building. The village of Pompton became the borough of Riverdale in 1923, but the fire department retained its original name until 1958, when it was changed to the Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department. In the early 1960's the department united with most other borough organizations and moved to the town municipal building. The fire department moved to Post Lane in 1980 and has remained at that site.

The borough of Riverdale joined with nine other Morris County towns in September 1993 to form the Northeastern Morris Mutual Aid Association, NEMMA. NEMMA meets monthly to discuss firematic issues, trade information, and conduct training sessions. Every year one of the towns hosts a large-scale simulated disaster drill.

The borough of Riverdale has grown over the years and since 2000 has seen new multi-story condominiums, senior housing, and the completion of a large retail complex, all of which has strained the volunteer fire department. In addition to building and vehicle fires, the firefighters respond to medivac landings, flood evacuations, motor vehicle extractions, and hazmat incidents. Town government and citizen support has enabled the fire department to make necessary equipment purchases, complete additions and renovations to the firehouse, and development a length of service program to help recruit and retain members. For the first time in decades, membership is over 30 firefighters.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the bor-

ough of Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department and all its firefighters, past and present, on the 100th anniversary of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

TRIBUTE TO OREGON'S LAST WORLD WAR I VETERAN MR. HOWARD V. RAMSEY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Oregon's last World War I veteran, Mr. Howard V. Ramsey. On February 22, 2007, our country lost one of our bravest, one of our favorite sons.

Howard V. Ramsey was born in 1898 in Rico, Colorado. As a student at Washington High in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Ramsey enrolled in the Oregon Naval Militia. After a failed attempt to enroll in the United States Army because he was underweight, Mr. Ramsey's perseverance and dedication to serve showed true as he was accepted later that year.

Mr. Ramsey served as an Army corporal in France. Armed with the highly sought-after skill of driving, Mr. Ramsey was charged with providing transportation for officers, providing water for soldiers on the front lines and returning the bodies of soldiers killed in combat.

After completing his service, Mr. Ramsey returned to Portland, Oregon, around 1920 and worked for Hudson-Essex, which later became Hudson Motor Car Company. In 1922 he went to work for Western Electric, which later became AT&T, and retired in 1963 at the age of 65.

I join all Oregonians, and all Americans, in expressing my sincere condolences to the family of Howard V. Ramsey for their loss. Our state, and our nation, is greater because of Mr. Ramsey's presence and we are lessened by his passing.

It is a true honor and privilege to be here today to remember one of the last World War I veterans. Madam Speaker, our country is honored by his service and thankful for all that he gave to ensure our freedom.

"YOU ARE OUR HEROES"

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fourth grade class at Redeemer Lutheran School in Pensacola, Florida, for their letters of appreciation to our nation's past and present servicemen and women.

Last week when I visited the school, the fourth grade class shared with me a letter project that they have been working on since the start of the school year. Their letters of thanks and admiration are sent to our men and women serving proudly overseas. I would like to take the time and share with you their heartfelt letter.

YOU ARE OUR HEROES

You are the men and women we honor today.

Our heroes are all of you—and we give you our thanks.

United we stand together!

Always on duty in protection of us.

Remembering the bravery of those who have served.

Everyone salutes and thanks you.

Our freedom is because of your sacrifices.

United States of America—you represent our best.

Respect and appreciation is what we have for you.

Helping us to live in a safer world.

Excellence, respect, and discipline is what you are.

Racing around the world to protect our freedom.

Overcoming fear, challenges, and being far from home.

Experiencing hardships to keep our country free.

Supporting you is our duty, and we offer our prayers for your safety.

Madam Speaker, I commend these young folks for their thoughtfulness and patriotism. I hope they continue to be shining examples and wish them all best.

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Peace Corps on its 46th anniversary, and commend the agency and its volunteers on the invaluable contribution they have made in promoting America's interests and values around the world since the organization's founding in 1961.

Forty-six years ago, President Kennedy challenged Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His inspiring words launched the Peace Corps, which President Kennedy officially established by Executive order on March 1, 1961. The response to the President's call for this bold experiment was swift and enthusiastic, with the first volunteers accepting the challenge and leaving for their overseas assignments less than 6 months later.

Each successive generation has answered President Kennedy's call, expanding the Peace Corps' ranks and extending its reach every year. Since its inception, more than 187,000 Peace Corps volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation.

This year, more than 7,700 volunteers have fulfilled President Kennedy's vision by living and working alongside people in 73 countries. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working on emerging and essential areas such as business, community, and youth development, and committing over 1,000 new volunteers as a part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers reach over 1.6 million young people every year, working on service-learning projects, teaching them the value of giving back to their own communities.

The Peace Corps has received such extraordinary success because its mission resonates with Americans and with the millions of

people across the globe that it has served. By immersing themselves in local cultures and working side by side with the communities they serve, Peace Corps volunteers have made a positive impact in a very personal way. They work with teachers and parents to improve access to education, with community groups to reach out to at-risk youth, with farmers to develop better farming methods, and with communities and local governments to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The Peace Corps' work has made a critical contribution to America's national security. Born during the height of the cold war as a means of preventing the false promise of communism from taking hold in the developing world, it has adapted its mission for the 21st century to embrace all people struggling to survive and take advantage of the new opportunities of our times. Peace Corps is critical in our effort to promote sustainable development, human rights and rule of law, and encourage free markets. Through Peace Corps, people of foreign nations learn that America is a force for peace, justice and prosperity in the world.

The Peace Corps is celebrating its 46th anniversary this week to raise awareness of its good work. I would like to recognize the 13 volunteers from my district who have met President Kennedy's call and are serving valiantly in countries across the globe. I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in celebrating the Peace Corps' success and wishing it well into the future.

SWORN-IN VOLUNTEERS IN THE 12TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, REPRESENTATIVE TOM LANTOS

Volunteer name	Country of service	Start of SVC date	Projected COS date
Beasley, Rachel E	Niger	29-Sep-2006	28-Sep-2008
Beitiks, Mikelis V	Ghana	02-Dec-2005	02-Dec-2007
Brownlee, Thomas E	South Africa	13-Oct-2005	06-Oct-2007
Capp, Anna J	Burkina Faso	21-Oct-2005	18-Oct-2007
De Vries, Thomas B	Cape Verde	09-Sep-2005	03-Sep-2007
Farrell, Rachel L	Peru	02-Dec-2005	02-Dec-2007
Finlev, Tessa M	Kenya	05-Aug-2005	03-Aug-2007
Kent, Ashley M	Malawi	15-Dec-2005	11-Dec-2007
Levine, Pamela B	Tanzania	16-Aug-2006	16-May-2008
Meyer, Andrea R	Zambia	14-Aug-2006	09-Aug-2008
Moutsos, Thomas S	Philippines	01-Jun-2006	06-Jun-2008
Tang, Natalie M	Madagascar	06-Dec-2005	11-Dec-2007
Wandro, Joshua D	Azerbaijan	05-Aug-2005	04-Aug-2007
Total volunteers: 13			

SPRIT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LAUNCHES HOPE FOR STUDENTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, March 4, 2007, an important event will take place in Charleston, SC. The South Carolina Maritime Heritage Foundation will be launching its tall ship, the *Spirit of South Carolina*.

The *Spirit of South Carolina* a few years ago was nothing more than a footnote in the South Carolina history books. "The residents of Charleston and South Carolina are reconnecting with a bygone era, and in so doing, they intend to address crucial issues in education. In a city known for historic preservation, this initiative isn't about buildings; this time it involves a ship—the *Spirit of South Carolina*. When the newly built, 140-foot traditional sailing vessel finally splashes down on

Sunday, March 4, it will offer a unique portal into the region's history, but it will also present a window of opportunity for tackling some vexing problems facing the State's school systems.

Almost 6 years in the making, this elegant, robust vessel—envisioned originally as a means of rekindling interest in the region's rich maritime heritage—will become the first genuine wooden sailing ship to be built here in more than 100 years. Where once there were hundreds of such ships, and many shipyards, now there is just one to call this region home, but it's a ship worth the wait.

The 150-ton *Spirit of South Carolina* has been designed and built along the lines of the traditional pilot schooners that served as a vital component of the region's busy mercantile scene in the 18th and 19th centuries. Like its forerunners, this ship has been built with traditional methods, including lumber grown in South Carolina, and this ship will also have a crucial function—serving to deepen and enhance the education of young students from around the State.

The *Spirit of South Carolina* will serve as an ambassador for our community and for the State of South Carolina. She is a beautiful, fast, world-class schooner, which will represent the history and culture of the Palmetto State in port cities around the world. Wherever she sails, the *Spirit of South Carolina* and her crew will serve as South Carolina's goodwill ambassadors.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of folks like Chairman John "Hank" Hofford, Mayor Joe Riley, Pierre Manigault, R.E. "Teddy" Turner, Jr., Brad and Meaghan Van Liew, Captain Anthony Arrow and many more, the *Spirit of South Carolina* is now a reality.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER
BLAKE FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Blake, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community,

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Blake for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2007
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that I enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2007 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Mr. Khalid S. Sheikh; the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Michael O. Barbazette, Detective Anthony D. Erway, Police Officer First Class Brian A. Gaydos, Detective John P. Keating, Second Lieutenant Christopher C. Cochrane, Police Officer First Class John S. Turner Jr., Police Officer First Class Eric M. Hillebrand, Police Officer First Class Darrell D. Estess; the Gold Medal: Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino, Detective Vicky O. Armel, Officer Richard A. Lehr Jr.; the Silver Medal: Master Police Officer Mark P. Dale, Detective Jeffrey W. Andrea, Master Police Officer William C. Horn, Second Lieutenant Boyd F. Thompson Jr.; the Bronze Medal: Police Officer First Class Westley S. Bevan, Lieutenant Stephen J. Thompson, Second Lieutenant Craig C. Copeland, Detective Steven L. Carroll, Police Officer First Class Daniel L. Horton, Master Police Officer Jeffrey K. Rockenbaugh, Master Police Officer Robert D. Patterson, Police Officer First Class James H. Urie, Police Officer First Class Ivan J. Roeske, Public Safety Communicator III Lisa A. Smith, Lieutenant Joseph R. Hill, Police Officer First Class Christopher R. Keaveny, Police Officer First Class David M. Popik, Sergeant Mark J. Smith, Sergeant John G. Sterling, Police Officer First Class Michael A. Wheeler.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

SIKH EDITOR WRITES TO PRESIDENT BUSH, URGES SUPPORT
FOR SIKH FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the